REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, the abstract has been replaced with one that is in single paragraph format and in a form consistent with the guidelines in MPEP §608.01(b). In addition, claim 2 has been amended from a grammatical standpoint and to use more typical language. Finally, all multiple dependency has been eliminated and new claims have been added to preserve the scope of the original multiple dependent claim. It is to be understood that the revisions to the claims are solely for formalistic purposes and not with regard to patentability.

Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Robert G. Mukai

Registration No. 28,531

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (703) 836-6620

Date: January 26, 2005